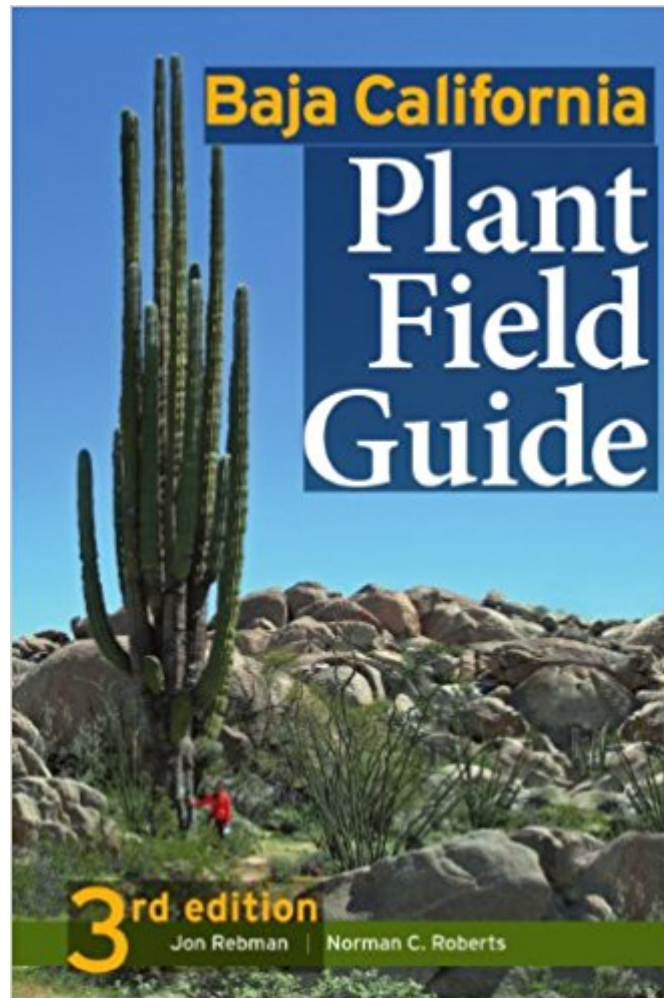




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Baja California Plant Field Guide



Synopsis

This new edition of the Baja California Plant Field Guide discusses or describes over 715 different plants in more than 350 genera in 111 families. Of these, approximately 32% are endemic to the region, 50% can also be found in southern California (e.g., San Diego County), and about 45% are new additions in this edition. In a field guide like this it is impossible to address all of the plant species in our region, but we have tried to compensate by discussing the overall diversity of the selected plant families and genera in introductory paragraphs preceding each species discussion. In this manner, we hope to give the reader a better understanding of the plant diversity that is not directly supplied by our book in photos and text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...an excellent book with information on ecology, florists, phyto-geography, plant communities, updating taxonomic and representative species of vegetation of the peninsula of Baja California. Jon Rebman, in my opinion is one of the best botanists and taxonomists of USA, he know very well the flora of southwestern USA and northwestern Mexico. His knowledge and passion for plants of Baja California, specially the cactus's family, is internationally recognized. Norman Roberts, would be satisfied with the excellent quality of information in this third edition. --Jose' Delgadillo-Rodriquez, Botanist UABCThis book of the unique plants of the Baja California Peninsula is the finest field guide I have had the privilege to use. It is extremely user-friendly, without even a tinge of dumb-down pandering. In fact,the book is much more than a field guide. I highly recommend it even

if you never have the chance to witness the botanical treasures of the two Mexican states of this 1300 km-long peninsula. The highly informative 45-page introduction includes contributions of noted scientists, all writing in an accurate and accessible manner linked to informative color illustrations. More than 715 different plants in 111 plant families are described. Common names, when available, are provided in Spanish and English. The arrangement is alphabetical by family, genus, and species. You will find up-to-date taxonomy and family assignments, and most intriguing is author Jon Rebman giving us insider taxonomic information often alluding to potential alternative classifications and reasons behind such opinions. The text is not dull. The book finishes with a fine glossary, largely illustrated, a significant list of references, and a thorough index. The color photos are of exceptional quality, illustrating significant features of the entire spectrum of the flora in fact, overall this is certainly one of the finest-illustrated regional plant books. The quality and quantity of color illustrations at so reasonable a price (\$35) is commendable. It is worth noting that photos in the book are also available on the San Diego Natural History Museum's bajaflora.org website of about 23,000 photos of plants and landscapes of the Baja California Peninsula. You don't have to go Baja California Peninsula to enjoy this book. Many of the families, genera, and some of the species also occur in New Mexico and southern Arizona. Just look at the information woven into the text linked to the illustrations and you will be rewarded. What plant lover can turn down a chance to learn more about a land and its flora, ranging from mountaintop conifers and aspen to deserts with spectacular cacti, boojum trees those bizarre relatives of our native ocotillo and tropical denizens such as native figs and mangroves. I can't imagine a Southwestern native plant person being without this book. We have waited a long time for this extensive revision of a botanical classic and the wait is worthwhile. It is gratifying to see the pioneering perseverance of Norman C. Roberts honored in such a splendid manner. --Richard Felger, Native Plant Society of New Mexico - Gila Chapter

Jon P. Rebman holds the Mary and Dallas Clark Endowed Chair and has been the Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum since 1996. For more than 22 years he has been conducting extensive floristic research in Baja California, Mexico and in San Diego and Imperial counties of California. Dr. Rebman obtained his doctoral degree in Botany from Arizona State University; his dissertation research elucidated the systematics of the genus *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) in the Cactus family of Baja California. Dr. Rebman is the director of the San Diego County Plant Atlas Project (sdplantatlas.org) and identifies/verifies all of the incoming specimens (over 55,000) that are obtained through this multi-year floristic project. He has published many scientific papers on the plants of the southern California/Baja California region including naming and describing many

new species in Baja California. As a hobby, Dr. Rebman is a plant photographer and almost all of his photos are available and searchable online at the museum's botanical websites: bajaflora.org and sdplantatlas.org.

I took this field guide to Baja on a week long excursion with a group of 25 naturalists and field biologists. My copy was one of two that we had among us, and it was much-borrowed and sought-after throughout the week. Everyone who used it exclaimed about what a great field guide it was. It's very readable, with much information about the cultural history of some of the plant species in addition to the natural history aspects. It's the kind of book you can flip through and read for hours on end, as well as use as a field guide for identification of a given species. The photographs are excellent. My only caveat is that the book was surprisingly heavy. I would always think twice before putting it in my daypack because of the weight, but it's such a good book that I ended up bringing it everywhere despite its weight, and I was always glad I'd brought it.

Rebman is the authority in this area and has produced a beautifully illustrated, concisely written guide book for Baja. Must have been a real labor of love. Armchair botanists will love it, especially folks from California and the Southwest who will find fascinating close relatives of many plants they already know. Hikers might rue its weight... it's hefty, but all will enjoy the thorough coverage of the plants plus introductory chapters on climate, geology, phytogeology, endemism and conservation.

Certainly the best book out there, with good photos, excellent range and habitat descriptions. As one might expect, far from all Baja plants are included, and this proves a bit frustrating. Sometimes, flowering plants are shown in leafy state, but the flowers are neither shown nor described. That all said, this will allow you to identify many of the trees, cacti and flowers you come across, particularly the larger and splashier kinds. In reality, this book is better than many similar guides to states in the US

Excellent resource for our recent trip to Baja. Used it every day, and learned so much about the amazing plant diversity in Baja Sur. Worth every penny. Not a book you would use for backpacking or hiking, but a reference at the end of the day. The plants are catagorized by family, it would be nice if there was an index that sorted by tree form, shrub forms, groundcovers, etc.

Another picture book. If you find a plant you want to identify, you will have to go through the entire

book to find what you're looking for. Nice pictures; and the plants are arranged by family. If this book included a decent key, it would be far more useful.

Very useful, really the only thing in its class. The lead author has helped me personally with a plant ID on iNaturalist, so he remains active.

Fabulous book, loads of information on the forming of Baja and its climate plus more varieties of plants and cactus than I knew existed. Highly recommended if you're making the drive. Kept me busy identifying flora all the way to Loreto !!

A wonderful and much-needed field guide to a beautiful and botanically rich region. I would like to see this book become the first in a series of botanical field guides, profiling all of the diverse regions of Mexico, or even all of Latin America.

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